MEMORANDUM
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
West Central Regional Office

3019 Peters Creek Rd. Roanoke, VA 24019

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, Fifth Meeting, New River PCB Source Search Citizens' Committee

TO: Committee Members

FROM: Jay Roberts, DEQ-WCRO

DATE: May 28, 2004

COPIES: John Copeland, DGIF; Jean Gregory, DEQ; Kip Foster, DEQ

The fifth meeting of the New River Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Source Search Citizens' Committee was held on Thursday, September 11, 2003, at the New River Valley Competitiveness Center. Twenty-eight people attended the meeting, including presenters, and twelve persons signed-in.

Rick Roth, Chair, started the meeting by asking that committee members and the public introduce themselves. Members attending were Darliet Colley, David Bernard, Charles Maus, Llyn Sharp, and Rick Roth. Phil Lockhard, W. Tom Miller, Sean Hash, and Ron Powers were not present.

Kip Foster introduced DEQ staff in attendance including Mike Asma, Gary Phillips, and Jay Roberts. Dr. Roth asked if committee members had any comments on the minutes from the May 11, 2003, meeting. Hearing no comments, committee members voted to approve the minutes.

Dr. Roth requested that DEQ staff proceed with the updates on Walker Creek sediment data. Mike Asma presented the Walker Creek data as well as a progress report of facility inspection and sampling efforts. A copy of the presentation and an associated sample plan handout is attached to the minutes. The following items were discussed in the course of the presentation.

- A sample was taken at the confluence of Walker Creek and New River on July 17, 2003. The sample result reported to DEQ by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) was 1.78 micrograms total PCB per kilogram of sediment on a dry weight basis (ppb). While this is a low result, DEQ proposes to sample downstream of the former Bane School because a PCB remediation was conducted at the site. Committee members concurred with DEQ's plans to take an additional sample from Walker Creek at station 9-WLK004.34 located at the Route 622 bridge located 5 miles south east of Pearisburg.

- Members requested clarification on PCB concentrations in sediment in Stony Creek. Of five sediment samples collected, three are reported as "non-detect." A May 3, 2000 sediment sample was returned as 150 ppb, and a June 21, 2000, sediment sample was returned as 13.81 ppb. A fish tissue result of 318 ppb was reported from a brown trout collected on June 21, 2000.

- Questions were raised over why DEQ plans to sample at a shallow depth of 0 to 6 inches below the soil surface. We discussed the probability that PCB would be bound near the soil surface, especially with soil organic matter. Once bound in soil, it is thought the primary PCB transport mechanism we can evaluate through sampling is PCBs adsorbed on soil eroded from source areas and transported to a storm water discharge point. DEQ is focusing sample efforts on shallow surface soils near potential source areas and sediments in storm water drainage ways where eroded, PCB containing soil may have been deposited.

- Questions were raised about the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) ongoing at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. It was pointed out the focus of the IRP is former solid waste management units (SWMU) located on the facility. Details about the IRP are available at the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library**,** Christiansburg Branch, located at 125 Sheltman Road, Christiansburg, Virginia. Information may also be obtained from the website: **www.radfordaapirp.org.**

  The question was asked if DEQ needed to do additional sampling at RAAP over and above what is being performed via the IRP. DEQ staff indicated RAAP is thoroughly sampling former SWMUs, and the EPA and DEQ staff is contributing to sample design and data evaluation efforts. However, the IRP is specific to locations of former SWMUs, and soils or sediments located at storm water outfalls are not being evaluated for PCBs. DEQ is proposing to sample storm water outfalls serving major operational areas, including the oleum plant and main power plant.

- Questions were raised about efforts to sample storm water outfalls at closed landfills, such as Cloyd's Mountain. Cloyd's Mountain Landfill is only one of two potential sources of PCBs identified in the Walker Creek watershed, the other being the former Bane School site. Because of the level of concern for Walker's Creek, the plan is to inspect the Cloyd's Mountain landfill site and locate a sampling point if warranted based upon the inspection.

- We discussed the limited number of samples remaining due to the number of samples that have been taken and the number of QA/QC samples that go along with each batch sent to VIMS for analysis. We asked for comments on places of interest where the committee would like samples to be taken. Locations suggested included the former Town of Narrows landfill, the Corning Plant, former Radford landfills, and the Virginia Tech Power Plant.

- The former Dublin Wastewater Treatment Plant will be inspected to determine whether or not it is in the watershed.

- A question was asked about what is limiting the amount of samples being collected and analyzed. The sample budget limits the study to 53 samples, and each sample analysis costs about $500.00. The difference in analysis costs between the Aroclor and Congener methods was briefly discussed. It was suggested that DEQ use an Aroclor method to save money and take more samples. It was indicated we are using a total PCB method that 1) analyzes all PCB congeners; 2) will allow us to detect weathered PCBs, and 3) is consistent with other PCB sampling efforts conducted in other parts of Virginia.

- Field test kits were brought up; it was pointed out that using them could be beneficial for us to use to target and prioritize sample points. We agreed with the concept and indicated that the option had been considered, but staff and funding limitations prevented pursuit of the test kit option.

- We discussed remaining sites needed to inspected and possibly sampled. The committee stated that DEQ staff had covered most areas, but they would like to be kept apprised of the number of samples remaining and how we proposed to use the samples. The committee will help prioritize sample locations if DEQ identifies more potential sample locations than allowed by the sample budget.

- A question was asked about what DEQ would do if a high PCB result was detected. It was indicated such information would be turned over to the EPA so they could determine whether a more thorough site assessment was warranted.

- A question was raised on how many samples we have collected, and how many VIMS has used as a QA/QC method. To date we have collected thirty-two samples, and we plan to take an additional eleven on September the 30th and October the 1st, which will give us a combined total of forty-three, with VIMS using five for QA/QC testing. This will leave us with five samples to take in the future.